



Westford Water Department

Warren E. Sweetser, Superintendent
Commissioners:
Leslie A. Thomas
Robert Carter
Douglas Deschenes
Harold E. Fletcher, Sr. (Alternate)

July 7, 2005

Dear Customers,

The Westford Water Department will be initiating a rate increase effective September 1, 2005. The change is necessary in order to meet \$400,000 in annual operating expenses for the two new treatment facilities and the \$700,000 in annual loan payments on the \$14.2 million interest free loan from the State Revolving Fund. It is also necessary to cover other expenses that have increased over the past several years such as fuel and electricity, contracted wages, and indirect costs to the Town that have doubled since our last rate increase in 2001. The increase will also fund future improvements such as the development of a new water supply well, possible remediation of the Cote Well, and development of an alternate well for the Country Road Well.

It is important to remember that local taxes do not support the Water Department. The Water Department is supported solely by revenue it generates and the majority of revenue comes from water usage. Other services provided include new service tie-ins, service repairs, and backflow device testing account for the balance of revenues.

The increase for you as an individual homeowner or business will depend on your usage. Following is an example to demonstrate the increase for a 5/8" residential account. For an average household using 3,000 cubic feet (22,400 gallons) of water per quarter, the rate will change from \$71.90 to \$95.25. Please go to our website and look under the Rules & Regulations link for the new rate schedule at <http://www.westford-ma.gov/generalinfo/water/water.htm>

The Water Department encourages water conservation and using water wisely. There are several ways you can conserve water. These include repairing leaks, installing water-saving devices on your faucets and toilets, monitoring your lawn watering so that lawns receive no more than 1" of water per week – including rain water, installing rain sensors on irrigation systems so they turn off during rain events, and watering early or late in the day to avoid water loss to evaporation. For more information about ways to conserve water or if you have questions about the rate changes, please call the Water Department at 978-692-5529.

The Board of Water Commissioners